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Potential Hazards of Undisclosed Fragrance Chemical Exposure in Nail Salons

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March 2, 2017



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Fragrance Exposure in Nail Salons

Commonly fragranced nail salon products include:

Hand Lotions

Massage oils

Nail Soak/Foot Soak

Cuticle oil

Some nail polish

Some nail polish removers

Air fresheners

Cleaning products

Disinfectants





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Fragrance exposure to Nail Salon Workers

Before every manicure or pedicure:

- Lotion applied
- Massage oils (hand or foot massage)
- Cuticle treatments applied
- Nail polish or remover (possible)

Ongoing Exposures

- Air fresheners
- Cleaning products and Sanitizers





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What Chemicals Are in These Fragrances?

Fragrance Ingredients Are Generally Not Disclosed

Legally, where ingredients in products are mandated to be disclosed on a cosmetics label, an exception for fragrance is provided using language such as:

“except that fragrance may be listed as fragrance.”
(or “parfum”, “aroma” or other equivalent term).

A master list of nearly 3,000 chemicals used in the manufacture of fragrance is published by the International Fragrance Association (IFRA)

<http://www.ifraorg.org/en-us/ingredients#>



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Fragrance Chemicals on the California Candidate Chemicals List

54 currently used fragrance chemicals listed by the International Fragrance Association are found on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Candidate Chemical List

Including:

Styrene

Parabens

Pyridine

Cresols

Xylenes

Napthalene

Nonylphenol

Nonylphenol Ethoxylates

Phthalates

Source: <http://www.womensvoices.org/fragrance-ingredients/fragrance-chemicals-dtsc-chemical-candidate-list/>



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Chemicals of Concern in Fragrance

UN GHS Classifications:

- 190 fragrance chemicals have been assigned the signal word “Danger” for their Safety Data Sheet.
- 1,175 fragrance chemicals have been assigned the signal word “Warning”.
- 44 fragrance chemicals require pictogram GHS06 of a Skull and Crossbones to indicate acute toxicity.
- 97 fragrance chemicals require pictogram GHS08 indicating the chemical is a hazard to human health.





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Fragrance Exposure Affects Human Health

- Tens of millions of people globally have skin allergies to fragrance.
- Other common symptoms of fragrance exposure include eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, migraines, exacerbations of respiratory disease.
- Less well documented symptoms include immune system effects, neurological effects and anaphylaxis.
- Women are significantly more likely than men to experience adverse effects of fragrance.



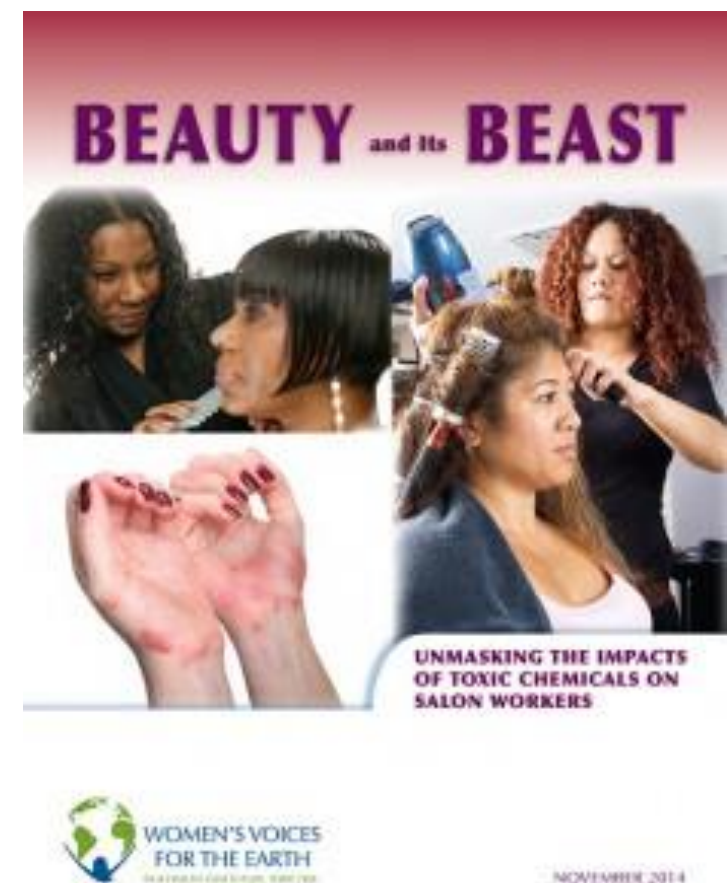


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Disproportionate Health Impacts in Nail Salon Workers

- Skin conditions, irritation and rashes
- Occupational asthma
- Nasal , throat irritation and cough
- Decreased lung function
- Increased risk of miscarriage
- Increased risk of low birth weight babies
- Headache, dizziness
- Increased risk of lupus
- Increased risk of primary biliary cirrhosis



Source: <http://www.womensvoices.org/safe-salons/beauty-and-its-beast/>



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Information needed about fragrance in nail salon products

- Identification/Disclosure of fragrance chemicals present in fragranced nail salon products.
- Particularly presence or absence of fragrance chemicals on California Candidate Chemicals List in these products
- Prevalence/ Frequency/ Quantity of use
- Ideally – product-specific disclosure of fragrance ingredients
- Interim step – fragrance palette disclosure by manufacturer



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Fragrance Ingredients Are Not Trade Secrets

A list of fragrance ingredients doesn't meet the definition of a trade secret

The Uniform Trade Secrets Act ("UTSA") defines a trade secret as: "information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from its disclosure or use; and from not being generally known to or readily ascertainable through appropriate means by other persons who might obtain economic value is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy"

"The relatively cheap availability of analytic technologies like gas chromatography-mass spectrometry now allow for very detailed analyses of fragrances. Using these latest techniques to support an experienced perfumer, a competitor can rapidly bring close approximations of the original to the market without having to recover the substantial R&D investment of the innovator. "

www.ifraorg.org/view_document.aspx?docId=23107



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Fragrance Ingredient Safety

Currently, the safety of fragrance chemicals is not determined by any governmental agency globally in any comprehensive fashion.



Instead the fragrance industry has been trusted to self-regulate, and to establish its own safety guidelines for the use of fragrance chemicals.



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Fragrance Industry Safety Program:

1. RIFM (Research Institute for Fragrance Materials) publishes peer-reviewed science on fragrance chemicals
2. Validation and review of the peer-reviewed science by an independent Expert Panel (REXPAN)
3. A comprehensive database of toxicological, eco-toxicological data and physical-chemical properties associated with known fragrance materials
4. IFRA (International Fragrance Association) standards determining allowable levels of fragrance chemicals to be used in products



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Unpacking the Fragrance Industry:

Policy Failures, the Trade Secret Myth and Public Health

Available at:

<http://www.womensvoices.org/fragrance-ingredients/report-unpacking-the-fragrance-industry/>

Unpacking the Fragrance Industry:

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An investigative report by Women's Voices for the Earth
November 2015



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Summary

- Fragrance commonly found in nail salon products.
- Fragrance exposure to nail salon workers associated with virtually every client regardless of service requested.
- Fragrance exposure has been documented to harm human health.
- Fragrances can contain chemicals of concern, including 54 chemicals on the California Candidate Chemicals List.
- Lack of disclosure of fragrance ingredients has hampered ability to investigate hazards of exposure to specific fragrance ingredients.
- Fragrance poses potential hazards to nail salon workers and deserves greater scrutiny and attention.